IN THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   In a client-server computing environment, a method for a server publishing a data object to a client coupled to said server over a data communications network, comprising the steps of said server:

    a)   receiving a request for said data object from said client over said data communications network;

    b)   identifying said data object on said server based on said request; and

    c)   publishing a representation of said data object to said client over said data communications network in response to said request.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein step a) includes receiving an application layer protocol request for said data object from said client over said data communications network.

3.   The method of claim 2, wherein said step of receiving an application layer protocol request for said data object from said client over said data communications network includes receiving a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) request for said data object from said client over said data communications network.

1   4.   The method of claim 1 wherein step a) includes receiving a request for

2   said data object from said client over said data communications network, said

3   request specifying a format for said data object.

1   5.   The method of claim 4 wherein said step of receiving a request for said

2   data object from said client over said data communications network, said request

3   specifying a format for said data object, includes receiving a request for said data

4   object from said client over said data communications network, said request

5   specifying a hypertext markup language format for said data object.

1   6.   The method of claim 5 wherein said step of receiving a request for said

2   data object from said client over said data communications network, said request

3   specifying a hypertext markup language format for said data object, includes

4   receiving a request for said data object from said client over said data

5   communications network, said request specifying a hypertext markup language

6   format, a data object name, and an argument list, for said data object.

1   7.   The method of claim 6 wherein said step of receiving a request for said

2   data object from said client over said data communications network, said request

3   specifying a hypertext markup language format, a data object name, and an

4   argument list, for said data object, includes receiving a request for said data

5   object from said client over said data communications network, said request

6   specifying a hypertext markup language format, a data object name, and a

7   property list, for said data object, wherein said property list is comprised of a

8   property and a value assigned to said property.

1   8.   The method of claim 6 wherein said step of receiving a request for said

2   data object from said client over said data communications network, said request

3   specifying a hypertext markup language format, a data object name, and an

4   argument list, for said data object, includes receiving a request for said data

5   object from said client over said data communications network, said request

6   specifying a hypertext markup language format, a data object name, and a

7   property list, for said data object, wherein said property list is comprised of a

8   plurality of properties and a plurality of values each assigned to one of said

9   plurality of properties.

1   9.   The method of claim 6 wherein said step of receiving a request for said

2   data object from said client over said data communications network, said request

3   specifying a hypertext markup language format, a data object name, and an

4   argument list, for said data object, includes receiving a request for a dynamic

5   data object from said client over said data communications network, said request

6   specifying a hypertext markup language format, a data object name, and a

7   property list, for said dynamic data object.

1   10.   The method of claim 4 wherein said step of publishing a representation of

2   said data object to said client over said data communications network in

3 response to said request includes publishing a representation of said data object

4 to said client over said data communications network in response to said request,

5 wherein said representation of said data object is based on said format for said

6 data object specified in said request.

1 11. In a client-server computing environment, a method for a server

2 publishing a representation of a dynamic data object (DDO) to a client coupled to

3 said server over a data communications network, comprising the steps of said

4 server:

5 a) receiving a request for said DDO from said client over said data

6 communications network, said request specifying a DDO name and a set of

7 values;

8 b) identifying said DDO on said server based on said DDO name;

9 c) passing as input to said DDO said set of values;

10 d) executing said DDO using said set of values as input;

11 e) generating said representation of said DDO; and

12 f) publishing said representation of said DDO to said client over said

13 data communications network.

1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein step a) includes receiving a hypertext

2 transfer protocol (HTTP) request for said DDO from said client over said data

3 communications network, said request specifying a DDO name and a set of

4 values.

1   13.   The method of claim 11 wherein said steps of e) and f) include e)

2   generating a hypertext markup language representation of said DDO and f)

3   publishing said hypertext markup language representation of said DDO to said

4   client over said data communications network.